

Libya to release 3 Tunisian guards

TUNIS (R) — Libya will soon release three Tunisian national guards kidnapped on the border, sources close to the Tunisian Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. The three were captured on May 8, the same day as anti-government rebels were involved in a gun battle in Tripoli. Libya accused Tunisia of having let the rebels infiltrate through Tunisian territory, an accusation strongly denied by Tunisia. The decision to release the three Tunisians is believed to have come out of a meeting between Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi and Libyan Foreign Minister Abdul Salam Tureiki during an Arab foreign ministers meeting last weekend. Mr. Tureiki promised to have the three men released before Tunis considers whether to send its ambassador back to Tripoli, the sources said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية عربية مستقلة، تُنشر من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Arafat arrives in Saudi Arabia

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in the Saudi Arabian port of Jeddah Tuesday, the Qatar News Agency reported. The agency, monitored here, quoted officials as saying he was expected to meet King Fahd during the two-day visit. It also quoted Arafat aide Hani Al Hassan as saying: "We attach great hopes to the visit as it could help restore Arab solidarity and remove inter-Arab differences." Mr. Hassan said Mr. Arafat would attend a meeting in Jeddah of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) peace committee on latest developments in the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq. Mr. Hassan also said he would visit Amman Wednesday to prepare for a meeting "within a few days" between Mr. Arafat and King Hussein, the agency added.

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Sharif Zaid meets Weinberger

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lieutenant-General Sharif Zaid, met in Washington Tuesday with U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and discussed Jordan's military needs. Talks were resumed later during a meeting held by the Joint Jordanian-U.S. Military Committee and the Jordanian side in the talks was led by Sharif Zaid while the U.S. side was led by Assistant U.S. Defence Secretary Richard Armstrong.

2 Israelis injured in S. Lebanon attack

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Unidentified men in a car shot and wounded two Israelis southeast of the South Lebanese port of Sidon Monday night, Lebanese security sources said Tuesday. The Israelis were travelling in a civilian car on the road between the villages of Maghdoush and Anqoun, about seven kilometres from Sidon, when the men opened fire at them with machineguns, they said. Israeli troops searched the area and found the attackers' car abandoned, they said.

Syria quits OIC committee

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria announced Monday it is withdrawing from the "Jerusalem Committee" of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) "as long as King Hassan II (of Morocco) is chairman." An official announcement reported by SANA, the official Syrian news agency, said the decision to suspend Syria's membership followed last week's staging of an international Jewish congress in Morocco with the participation of an Israeli delegation.

Japan urged to cut Iranian oil imports

TOKYO (R) — Arab League ministers Tuesday urged Japan to cut back its oil imports from Iran and were told it had already done so. Foreign Ministry officials said. The plea was made by foreign ministers Tareq Aziz of Iraq and Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait when they called on Japan's Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, the officials said. The Arab ministers argued that Japanese oil imports were helping Iran finance its war against Iraq, which they said could only prolong the Gulf war.

Ulster judge resigns from trial

BELFAST (AP) — The judge in Britain's biggest-ever terrorism trial removed himself from the case Tuesday, a day after the proceedings began. He ordered a new trial. Crown Court Judge John MacDermott said he was discharging himself from the case because the prosecution's comments about the reliability of its star witness, police informant Raymond Gilmour, "cannot be sustained by admissible evidence." Mr. MacDermott, hearing the case without a jury, ordered a new trial to begin next Tuesday with a new judge.

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'No solution without involvement of Security Council permanent members and all parties concerned'

King calls for international efforts to implement 242

PARIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein said in a newspaper interview published here Tuesday that it was impossible to find a peaceful settlement for the Middle East problem without the participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council together with the parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict in an international effort for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

In an interview with the French newspaper, Le Figaro, King Hussein said that Resolution 242 should be implemented if peace is to be achieved in the Middle East. "The irony is that when one turns the five capitals of the permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council, one hears that the solution is contained in U.N. Resolution 242, why then not start putting it to work?" U.N. Resolution 242 established the principle of Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories in exchange for recognised borders.

Soviet role

The King said the Soviets should be allowed to participate in negotiations between Arab states and Israel "from the very beginning." The Soviets would be "a factor of equilibrium" in the negotiations process, the King was quoted as saying.

"There will not be a solution without Soviet participation, and

it is better that they be involved from the start. The question is to know whether the United States can have neutrality as a superpower. The Soviet Union would be a factor of equilibrium.

"Politically the Soviet Union is always present (in the region) and it cannot be left out from an area close to its frontiers and where it feels it has interests. But I would add that this should not only mean the Soviet Union," the King said.

U.S. credibility

Referring to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's peace plan announced in September 1982, King Hussein said that the proposal had aroused great hopes in the region and Jordan had done all that it could to help President Reagan in his endeavour. "I visited the United States and explained to the president that there can be no progress in peace efforts unless U.S. credibility in the Middle East is restored," King Hussein said.

American credibility should be re-established, the King said, to



HUSSEIN, NOOR RETURN: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, who returned to Amman Tuesday after a private visit to Britain, are received by from left to right Minister of

Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Nabulsi, Minister of Information Laila Sharaf, Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh and Minister of Transport Taher Hikmat.

give support for the Reagan plan because Israel had rejected it outright and had refused the principle of exchanging peace in return for land and continued to build settlements in the occupied Arab lands. In fact, he said, the restoration of U.S. credibility should have started in Lebanon where Israeli forces should have been made to withdraw along with all foreign troops.

King Hussein also said he feared that the partition of Lebanon following the Israeli invasion had become an irreversible fact.

"The Israelis had two objectives in mind," the King told Le Figaro. "One, openly proclaimed, was to expel the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation). The other, never spoken, was to control the

sources of the Jordan River. That's been done, and I don't see how we can change it."

The King also said that new Israeli settlements on the occupied West Bank constituted a major obstacle to any peace settlement.

"The attitude of the United States towards the Israeli settlements constitutes a major obstacle, also because the building of these settlements hasn't stopped."

King Hussein added that Israeli activities in the occupied areas amounted to annexation.

On the prospect of peace efforts in the region in the event of the Israeli Labour Party coming to power in elections scheduled for July, King Hussein said that the Labour was in power for several years but was not able to reach a

peaceful settlement with the Arabs. However, it now seems that the opposition in Israel, represented by Labour, is more moderate than the ruling Likud coalition and if the Labour wins the elections, this could be an encouraging sign since Labour is more concerned with foreign policies, the King said. But he wondered whether the situation in the occupied West Bank would have reached a point by then where post-election developments would have no effect. He said such a situation is possible in view of the fact that Israel is continuing to build settlements and even if a decision was taken to stop building more settlements there would remain the problem of Israeli settlers who live in the occupied Arab

lands and the problem of Arab land that had been confiscated and turned into Israeli colonies.

King Hussein disclosed that President Reagan had turned down his request for U.S. pressure on Israel to stop the Jewish state's objection to the participation of Palestinians from the occupied Arab lands in negotiations.

King Hussein said that he had wanted the West Bankers included in the negotiations to provide moderate views, but that he received two letters from the U.S. president rejecting the idea.

The essence of the whole issue lies in the fact that Jordan found it impossible to deal with the United States over since it sided completely with Israel, forming an alliance with it and failing to honour its commitments and pledges, King Hussein said.

Commenting on the forthcoming U.S. presidential elections, he said, both Democratic candidates support Israel and both call for the transfer of the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, "something which we totally oppose."

Jerusalem does not belong to either Jordan or Israel or the Arab World, but rather to the whole Islamic and the Christian worlds, and the transfer of the U.S. embassy would mean that Jordan cannot continue to maintain relations with the United States and that could result in grave consequences, King Hussein said.

King Hussein stressed that the European role in the Middle East is a basic one, and had it not been for the Economic Community's European Venice Declaration, in

1980, the Middle East would have been turned into a zone for polarisation between East and West entailing serious threats to peace and the future identity of the Arabs.

The Europeans have succeeded in creating some sort of balance and the Arabs have to maintain contact with Europe in this respect, King Hussein said.

Europe's role lies in supporting what is right and defending the principles contained in U.N. Resolution 242 which endorses the inadmissibility of occupying other countries' lands by force, he added.

Referring to the Gulf war, King Hussein stressed Jordan's commitment to support Iraq. "Jordan has its reasons for this commitment and they are based on the principle of Arab solidarity and the joint Arab Defence Pact which states that any attack on an Arab League member should be considered directed against all member states," the King pointed out. "On the strength of these principles Jordan entered the 1967 war with Israel," the King said.

In the interview conducted for the French daily by former French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean Francois Poncet, King Hussein said that Jordan had always opposed Syrian and Libyan attempts to control the PLO because Jordan believes that the Palestinian voice should be free.

"I have explained this clearly to PLO leader Yasser Arafat on several occasions and I made it clear that Arafat's powers are derived from Palestinian people's support," the King said.

Reagan prepared to consider U.S. military action in Gulf

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan has told Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in a letter that the United States is prepared to consider military action if necessary to protect oil tankers in the Gulf, according to administration officials.

Mr. Reagan sent the letter to King Fahd Monday and was expected to hold a news conference Tuesday night amid growing U.S. fears over the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war.

Both Iran and Iraq have attacked oil tankers and other vessels in the Gulf and Mr. Reagan is certain to face questions about his vow to keep the waterway open to oil traffic. Japan and Western Europe depend heavily on Arab oil.

The letter was delivered Monday by Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs. He flew to Riyadh to discuss the situation with Saudi officials.

U.S. officials said Mr. Reagan expressed great concern over escalation of the war and indicated Washington would have to be granted rights to operate from Saudi

air bases if U.S. action became necessary.

Officials said Mr. Reagan's options included direct use of U.S. air power or providing material support for Saudi jets.

Following attacks by Iranian aircraft on Saudi and other oil tankers in the Gulf, Washington has suggested to the Gulf nations, especially Saudi Arabia, that it would be willing to consider providing American air cover if they would permit U.S. aircraft to use their airfields, according to a dispatch by the Associated Press from Washington.

The Arab nations did not agree to Americans use of the airfields when the subject came up at lower levels, but Mr. Reagan's letter to the Saudi king raises the issue to the highest level, AP said.

The State Department has stepped up its criticism of Iran, saying that "Iranian intransigence is the main obstacle to halting the fighting" in the three-year-old Gulf war.

Department spokesman Alan Romberg told reporters that "the Iraqis have indicated they would be willing to talk to try to bring

about an end to the war. The Iraqis have rejected that."

Officials said no request had been received from Saudi Arabia or other Arab states for U.S. intervention and that no such request was likely under current circumstances.

But one official told the Washington Post that it had been decided that U.S. flag ships in the area, such as an American commercial vessel reported to be picking up oil, would be protected by U.S. forces.

King Fahd said Monday night in an emergency cabinet meeting that Saudi Arabia would enlist all its military capabilities to defend its territory.

Saudi Arabia has 170 combat aircraft, including as many as 50 high-performance U.S.-built F-15s, according to Major Robert Elliot of the Institute of Strategic Studies. It also has 65 less sophisticated but well-maintained F-5 warplanes.

Saudi determined to defend their land: Fahd sends message to Syria; U.N. to debate Arab complaint against Iran, page 2

Beirut talks focus on security for parliament

BEIRUT (AP) — The parliament speaker's office opened talks with police officials Tuesday on security measures needed to protect a parliament meeting in central Beirut for a vote of confidence on Lebanon's national coalition government.

Speaker Kamel Assad's aides were in contact with police Chief Colonel Issam Abu Zaki to discuss security arrangements expected to be made final at a meeting later Tuesday chaired by the speaker's deputy, Munir Abu Fadel, spokesmen said.

The move followed a formal request Monday by Prime Minister Rashid Karami for a parliament session to consider the policy statement of his three-week-old cabinet of national unity.

Mr. Karami said his half-Christian, half-Muslim government, which includes Lebanon's principal factional leaders, was ready to go before parliament for a vote of confidence as of Thursday.

But Mr. Assad insisted that elaborate security should be ensured for the meeting at parliament's Villa Mansour headquarters on the "museum crossing," the only open gateway between mainly Christian east and mostly Muslim west Beirut, the state radio reported.

Mr. Assad wants solid assurances from various warring factions that their forces would observe a strict ceasefire in all areas surrounding Villa Mansour for the duration of the parliamentary debate on the cabinet's policy statement, according to the broadcast.

The Museum area, where French truce observers are now stationed, has frequently been involved in sniping and mortar duels between rival factions in Lebanon's nine-year civil war.

It was at Villa Mansour in Beirut's no-man's-land that Mr. Karami, 62, held consultations with parliament bloc leaders last month on forming the new government. Gunfire and shell blasts echoed around the area as the consultations were under way.

Lebanese banks struggle to survive, page 2

Iraq says it can destroy Kharg

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has the weapons to destroy Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal and will keep up its attacks on tankers approaching the area, the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said Tuesday.

"We have enough sophisticated weapons to destroy the oil installation at Kharg Island," the newspaper said. "We will certainly use all our weapons to attack Kharg and any other vital target inside Iran if we see that necessary."

Referring to the war zone declared by Iraq to blockade Iranian ports, Al Thawra said: "Iraq will strike any oil tanker or ship that might try to approach the zone of military operations around Kharg Island and other Iranian terminals in the Gulf."

Iraq has claimed its air force and navy have damaged or sunk dozens of vessels in or near the war zone since the Gulf war started in September 1980.

In recent weeks, Iraq has extended its operations further down the Gulf south of Kharg Island. It reported hitting two large vessels last week, one of them believed to be the Panamanian-registered bulk carrier Fidelity with a cargo of steel from Spain for Iran which subsequently sank.

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Al Thawra said Iraq would continue its blockade of Kharg oil terminal "to prevent Tehran rulers from financing their aggression against Iraq, so long as Iran bans the exportation of Iraqi oil through the Gulf and Syria blockades the

Iraqi pipeline passing through its territories to the Mediterranean."

It added: "Iraq has no other choice to end the war and force Iran to accept peace but to cut the sources of its financing (oil)."

Iraq has threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf through which one sixth of the non-communist world's oil supplies passes.

There had been several attacks against Arab-owned oil tankers in the Gulf and the Arab Gulf states have accused Iran of carrying out the attacks.

Earlier this week Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said the siege imposed by the Iraqi armed forces on Iranian oil exports has been a success.

Genscher pessimistic over resumption of arms talks

MOSCOW (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Tuesday after talks with Soviet leaders he saw no sign that Moscow was ready to resume nuclear arms talks in the coming months.

After meetings with President Konstantin Chernenko and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, Mr. Genscher was asked at a press conference if he thought the Kremlin might reopen the talks before the U.S. presidential election in November.

"I have seen no indication of that," he replied.

The West German minister said he had used his meetings to urge Mr. Chernenko and Mr. Gromyko to reopen the U.S.-Soviet talks on strategic and medium-range nuclear arms but made it clear he had been given no assurances of any kind in reply.

TASS news agency quoted Mr. Chernenko as telling Mr. Genscher that appeals for a return to the negotiating table while the U.S. missiles were in place "cannot be regarded as serious."

Gromyko rejects return to arms talks, page 8

6 world leaders appeal for end to nuclear race

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Six national leaders, saying they act independently of Washington and Moscow, announced a joint initiative on disarmament Tuesday and urged the world's nuclear powers "to halt all testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems."

These steps should be "immediately followed by substantial reductions in nuclear forces," according to a nine-point declaration issued in Stockholm by Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, one of the six signers.

The other five leaders, presenting the declaration in their own national capitals, are Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, President Julius Nyerere

of Tanzania, Premier Andreas Papandreu of Greece and Argentine President Raul Alfonsin.

Mr. Alfonsin did not take part in the drawing up of the declaration but was invited as a signer in the final stage.

Mr. Palme said the initiative for the declaration came from a "U.S.-based organisation, Parliamentarians for World Order, which describes itself as an international network of politicians working for disarmament and development. But Mr. Palme said the declaration itself was drawn up solely by the original signers and their advisors.

The joint statement did not detail how the leaders hoped to persuade the nuclear armed nations to halt the "drift toward war."

Soviets oust U.K. diplomat

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union has ordered the chief of security at the British embassy to leave the country by Sunday, apparently in response to the expulsion of a Soviet diplomat from Britain, an embassy spokesman said Tuesday.

He said Ambassador Sir Iain Sutherland was called into the Foreign Ministry on Monday and told that First Secretary John Burnett must leave the country.

The spokesman said the action was seen as retaliation for the British expulsion of a Soviet diplomat last week.

The spokesman said Britain had ordered a Soviet first secretary expelled on May 14, but said the expulsion was not made public until Mr. Burnett was ordered to leave. He declined to say what allegations had been made against either expelled diplomat.

In London, meanwhile, a Foreign Office spokesman said Soviet Embassy First Secretary Arkadi V. Gouk was ordered out of the country last Monday. He was given seven days to leave and has already gone.

Mr. Gouk was named in a spy case involving a British intelligence officer, Michael John Bettaney, who was sentenced April 16 to 23 years in jail. He told police that he offered his services to the KGB, the Soviet secret service, on three occasions by dropping midnight letters to Mr. Gouk at the envoy's London home.

British security officers testified at the trial, held mostly in secret, that the Soviets did not take up the repeated offer by Mr. Bettaney.

Nabulsi declines comments on reports of Arab fund fraud

AMMAN (J.T.) — Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi has declined to comment on reports about embezzlements in the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Nabulsi said, however, he regretted that such news was published without referring to the AMF official sources to verify its accuracy, because publication of such news offends the reputation of the Arab financial institutions.

A Paris-based Arabic magazine had said that Arab finance ministers have discovered a financial scandal at the AMF and that they have submitted a strictly confidential report to heads of Arab states, wherein they disclosed embezzlement and financial con-

traventions in the fund's accountancy division amounting to \$60 million.

The magazine said that current Chairman of the AMF Saïd Al Ghabash, who declined to agree with or dismiss the news about financial embezzlement during the previous chairmanship of the AMF, has entrusted a committee of certified auditors to check the fund's accounts.

The magazine also said that the report which it received contains amazing information about methods to which the embezzlers have resorted in order to cover their

manipulation of the fund's money. Among the methods followed, the magazine said, are freezing of big amounts and transferring the interests on them to personal accounts. In addition to trading with gold and investing the fund's money in private businesses at the highest levels.

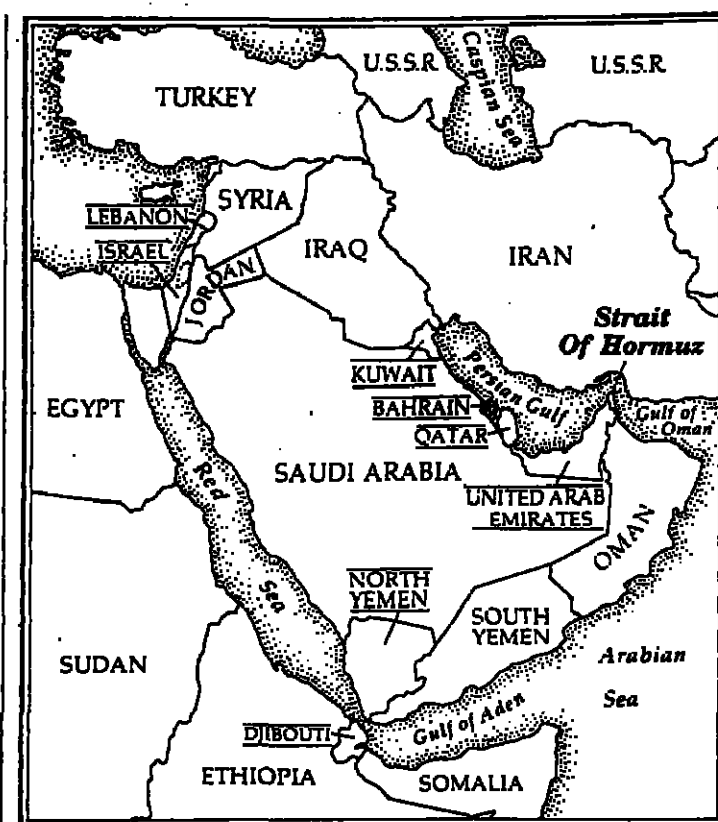
The AMF was established by virtue of an agreement on Feb. 2, 1977 with Abu Dhabi, as its headquarters.

The decision to establish the AMF was adopted following a meeting of the Council for Arab Economic Unity held in Rabat, Morocco on April 27, 1976.

The creation of the AMF was seen as a step towards the goal of Arab Economic integration. Like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the AMF assists member



Muhammad Said Al Nabulsi states in the balance of payment difficulties, but it has a broader range of aims and a smaller capital base than the IMF.



Security Council to hold meeting on Gulf crisis

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Tension over air attacks on shipping in the Gulf remained high Tuesday as the Security Council prepared to hold a special session on the crisis.

Diplomats said the Security Council was expected to meet on Thursday in response to a request from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council for a meeting to consider what it called Iranian aggression against shipping to and from its ports.

In their letter to the Security Council, the six states said "such aggressions constitute a threat to the stability and safety of the area and have serious implications for international peace and security."

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates asked for the session Monday, as Saudi Arabia said Gulf states would defend their shipping interests and Iran said its warnings on Gulf security should be taken seriously.

Since January, 20 ships are reported to have been damaged in the Gulf.

Iran has denied responsibility for the assaults, while giving warning of possible repercussions if its oil shipments are disrupted as a

result of its war with Iraq. Not since the 1982 war between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands has the Security Council had to deal with a matter of such far-reaching importance, diplomats said.

A stoppage of oil shipments could profoundly affect already weak global economic recovery and add a new and unpredictable element in the American presidential election, they said.

Secretary-general of the Gulf Council and former chief U.N. delegate of Kuwait, told reporters Monday when he met the council president, Oleg Troyanovsky of the Soviet Union: "The situation is very grave."

He said the Arab states of the Gulf would not immediately submit any resolution to the council. The initial aim, he said, was "to take the heat out of the situation, put a lid on a boiling pot."

None of the Gulf states is a member of the council, whose only Arab member is Egypt.

Positive action by the 15-nation council requires the acquiescence of the five permanent members, the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France and Britain.

Saudis determined to defend territorial waters

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said Tuesday he was determined to muster the kingdom's military potential for the defense of its territorial waters against aggression, alluding to recent Iranian attacks on Saudi oil tankers in the Gulf waters.

He briefed his cabinet of ministers on contacts conducted lately with Arab and Islamic powers in search of "all remedies with peaceful means" to confront the perilous situation in the troubled region.

The king's state ment was read on his behalf by Information Minister Ali Shaer in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, after the cabinet meeting which was devoted to the war situation in the Gulf region.

No details were immediately available on the nature of the military measures the kingdom was to take in the face of Iranian attempts to broaden the scope of the war to the lower Gulf region.

Iraq has been attacking commercial shipping in the war zone, while its Gulf war foe Iran appeared bent on pursuing its air raids on Arab oil tankers in neutral waters.

The Iraqi last month hit two Saudi-registered oil tankers near Iran's Kharg Island oil export terminal, Iran on May 13 and May 14 crippled two Kuwaiti oil tankers and on May 16 hit one Saudi tanker in neutral territorial waters.

The three attacks triggered a flurry of high-level meetings and consultations among the Gulf powers and Arab League member states to confront the Iranian menace.

The Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) last week held a foreign ministers conference in Riyadh and decided to take the case to the Arab League, which convened a meeting in Tunis at foreign ministers level to discuss this.

The Arab League decided to refer Kuwait and Saudi Arabia's case to the U.N. Security Council in search of international action to

deter Iran. The air forces of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia last Sunday began co-ordinating regular air reconnaissance missions over their territorial waters, to protect their oil tanker routes against the eventuality of further Iranian air attacks.

The United Arab Emirates was to wind up 48 hours of naval manoeuvres to test defence capabilities in its territorial waters.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman are members of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), a regional economic integration and collective defence pact.

In Washington, an unidentified official said Saudi Arabia has been reluctant to use its U.S.-built air force in protecting oil tankers allegedly for fear of confronting Iran.

"The Saudis are reluctant to antagonise Iran," said one Washington official.

The kingdom has a modern air force built by the United States, including mainly 62 advanced F-15 jet fighters and four U.S.-operated Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) radar planes that patrol Saudi skies and spot planes attacking oil tankers along Gulf routes.

The foreign ministers of Kuwait and Iraq were meanwhile in Tokyo urging Japan to sharply reduce its oil purchases from Iran, as a means of putting pressure on Tehran to cease attacking oil tankers and respond favourably to Iraqi peace overtures.

In Brussels, the Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani indicated the Gulf situation might precipitate an interruption in world oil supplies. He told reporters after a lecture at Brussels university that in the event of an interruption the U.S., Japan, Germany and others are expected "to keep oil markets orderly."

"We would expect the U.S. to announce it is opening its strategic reserve to supply U.S. market," Mr. Yamani said.

Iran denounces Arab League resolution

TEHRAN (R) — Iran Tuesday denounced an Arab League resolution accusing it of attacking oil tankers in its war with Iraq and again threatened to block oil exports from the Gulf.

As the United Nations Security Council prepared to consider complaints by the Gulf states of Iranian aggression, the Tehran Foreign Ministry said Iran would prevent any oil leaving the Gulf if its own exports were blocked.

A ministry statement, carried by the National News Agency IRNA, said the resolution by Arab League foreign ministers in Tunis last Sunday ignored realities and failed to note that Iraq was "fanning the flames of war to further increase tension in the region."

IRNA said in a separate com-

mentary the league ministers had acted on behalf of the United States, which it said always pitted Arab rulers against Iran.

Tehran has blamed Iraq for attacks in the Gulf in which 20 ships have been reported damaged since January, and has issued a series of threats in recent days of possible repercussions.

Western diplomats here said the threats could indicate the attacks are having a serious impact on Iran's oil exports, on which it depends to finance its 44-month-old war with Iraq.

Iranian leaders have said the Gulf must be "all secure or all insecure" and parliamentary speaker Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has promised "tit-for-tat" retaliation.

Lebanese banks struggle to survive economic recession, war

By Alistair Lyon

BEIRUT — The near-collapse of a Beirut bank has raised widespread fears about the health of Lebanon's banking sector as it struggles to survive the severe economic battering the nation has suffered in nine years of civil war.

Last month, the Central Bank intervened to prop up the First Phoenician Bank, a medium-sized bank that took over First National Bank of Chicago's operations in Lebanon in 1982.

Opinions among government officials and bankers vary on how far First Phoenician's problems are symptomatic of a general malaise in the banking sector.

A senior government official told Reuters he felt no "sizeable concern" about the banks.

He blamed the crisis at First Phoenician on its management, but was confident the sickness in the economy at large had not yet reached the banking sector, which he said had coped so far with flexibility and strength.

"However, if the present situation continues with no security and no political solution, there is a danger of a real collapse that

would affect all sectors," he said. Lebanon's economy is already reeling. Factories lie in ruins, trade has slumped, workers' remittances have dwindled and last year a once-healthy balance of payments swung into a deficit of around \$1 billion.

Lebanon has no fewer than 87 commercial banks and the contraction in the economy since 1982 has sharpened competition for deposits, even though investment outlets are scarce. "Too many banks are oriented towards large balance sheets rather than towards profitability," the manager of an American bank commented. "As a result, they find themselves paying interest on deposits they cannot use."

He said the decline in trade had led to a sharp drop in the volume of letters of credit, normally a major source of bank earnings. This had also affected Lebanese banks abroad, whose operations are largely trade-related.

Instead, banks have the option of investing in treasury bills, which the government issues to finance public spending and control liquidity in the banks. Banks now hold about \$2.5 bil-

lion worth of bills. Bankers say they are safe — as long as Lebanon has a central government — but they offer a lower yield than loans to the private sector.

A lack of investment opportunities has tempted many banks to speculate in foreign currencies, the government official said, even though they are officially barred from doing so. Lebanon's banking secrecy laws made it almost impossible for the Central Bank to monitor such operations if they were carried out with the collusion of depositors, he added.

The Central Bank appointed a team to run First Phoenician when its problems first came to light in February. It has since injected more than 250 million Lebanese pounds (\$44 million) to enable the bank to meet its obligations. Auditors are still assessing the bank's losses, which the official agreed could be as high as \$70 million.

Prompt action by the Central Bank, which fears that any bank failure would destroy confidence in the whole sector, has done much to reassure local bankers. But they have become more

cautious. The manager of a foreign-owned money dealing company told Reuters some large banks were refusing to do business with some smaller ones.

Every banker interviewed by Reuters had a list of a dozen or so "suspect" banks, though the names varied. Several said certain banks had spread rumors, for example, in the hope of "stealing" deposits from their rivals.

At present there are no banking liquidity problems. The Lebanese Bankers Association said commercial banks hold deposits of about 57 billion pounds (\$10 billion), up from 45 billion (\$8 billion) at the end of 1982. Lending stands at 36 billion pounds (\$6.4 billion).

Banks are understandably shy of extending new credit to the private sector, which has sustained billions of dollars worth of damage in Lebanon's nine years of civil war.

Many businessmen and industrialists are unable to repay existing loans or meet interest payments on time. In some cases, collateral has become devalued. Banks have had little choice but to roll over unpaid debts and in-

crease year by year, using what one financial expert described as "imaginative accounting methods to conceal the extent of 'non-performing' loans on their books on which no interest is being paid."

Nobody knows the ratio of bad debts to total loans, but the Central Bank is encouraging banks to make provision in their accounts for even borrowers whose credit rating is high.

The government official said the Central Bank wanted banks to increase their capital and would be happy if this led to a shake-up in which large banks "ate" smaller ones.

GCC ministers meeting postponed

BAHRAIN (R) — A meeting of foreign ministers of the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) member states due to have been held in Riyadh next Saturday has been postponed, according to a GCC official in the Saudi capital. Contacted by telephone from Bahrain, he said the move had been at the request of Saudi Arabia. The official gave no explanation for the postponement.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Khoran
17:45 Cartoons
18:10 Tom Sawyer
19:20 Programme Review
19:30 Programme on Agriculture
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:35 Local Programme
22:10 Arabic Literary Panel
23:00 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Secret de Vain court
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Cowboys — Eps. 4
21:00 Documentary: Panorama
22:00 News in English
22:15 Hotel

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 9560 KHz. SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show
10:30 Pop Session
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Oh! Mother
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instruments
16:30 Old Favorites
17:00 Jordan Weekly
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Over a Cup of Tea
18:30 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show
22:00 News Summary
23:00 News Summary
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Waveguide 06:40 Book Choice 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 24 Hours: News Summary 07:20 07:30 News 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Omnibus 09:00 World News 09:05 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 That's That 09:45 Report on Religion 10:00 World News 10:05 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 10:45 Pooled Choice 10:50 I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 These Musical Islands 12:15 Patrick Marry's Music Box 12:30 The Mutiny and the Seizure of HMS Bounty 12:50 Recording of the Week 13:00 World News 13:05 News about Britain 13:15 World Service Short Story 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Nature Notebook 14:25 The Farming World 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Letters from Everywhere 15:45 Holst and his Circle 16:15 Report on Religion 16:30 Middlemarch 17:00 New Newsweek 17:15 Outlook 18:15 Counterpoint 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:05 Monitor 19:25 New Ideas 19:35 Waveguide 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 Top Twenty 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 A Treasury of Music 22:00 World News 22:05 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Assignment 23:00 London Royal 23:15 World Service Short Story 23:30 Jazz for the Asking 24:00 World News 00:09 The World Today 00:25 Book Choice

VOICE OF AMERICA

1200, 5W 7200, 9565, 11740, 11025 & 15210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; daily business reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; analysis, viewpoints, features 17:00 News 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 USA 18:30 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News 20:10 Focus

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

* A collection of paintings and other works of art by local and international artists on show at the Arts At Gallery.

* Exhibition of paintings by Nazareth college students at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

* "Les beaux moments de Boire-Doree" at the French Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.

VIDEO FILM

* "Egmont" at the Goethe Institute at 8:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre : Tel. 6610267
American Centre : 44371
American Cultural Library : 41520
British Council : 3647-6
French Cultural Centre : 37009
Goethe Institute : 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre : 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre : 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre : 30777
Hays Arts Centre : 65195
Husseini Youth City : 667181
Y.W.C.A. : 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. : 664251
Amman Municipal Library : 36111
University of Jordan Library : 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 31760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesday.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mustazah, Jabal

Luwilbeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664340.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Philadelphian Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwilbeh, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559.
American Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.
Assiuta International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmiesani, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

02:57 Fajr
04:33 (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:22 Dhuhur
15:14 'Asr
18:53 Maghrib
20:08 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Air Jordanian Department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. 33250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:50 Cairo (MS)
07:30 Karachi (PK)
08:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:30 Agaba (RJ)
08:45 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
09:05 Cairo (RJ)
09:30 Muscat, Bahrain (LM)
10:40 Kuwait (KU)
10:50 Bucharest, Larnaca (RO)
11:00 Jeddah (SV)
11:40 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (JA)
17:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)
17:10 Athens (RJ)
17:35 Los Angeles, Vienna (RJ)
17:35 London, Paris (RJ)
17:40 New York, Amsterdam, Geneva (RJ)
18:00 Madrid (RJ)
18:00 Rome (RJ)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
18:30 Bangkok (RJ)
20:05 Cairo (MS)
20:10 Larnaca (CY)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

05:10 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
06:35 Istanbul, Amsterdam (KL)
06:50 Athens (MS)
07:15 Agaba (RJ)
07:30 Athens (OA)
09:00 Damascus, Rome (Alitalia)
09:40 Karachi (PK)
11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:30 Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
14:30 Cairo (RJ)
15:40 Kuwait (KU)
16:40 Jeddah (SV)
18:00 Baghdad (JA)
19:30 Kuwait, Doha (RJ)
19:45 Dhahran (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:45 Cairo (RJ)
20:55 Larnaca (CY)
21:55 Cairo (MS)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Agaba port:

— Marko Marole
— Merzario Arabia
— Badre
— Bostock
— Banglar Moni
— Agis Myria
— Vysia Aditya
— Larcus
— Al Khansa

Amin Kavar and Sons Company, Tel. 23324 (six lines) at your service.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will continue to be hot. Light and variable winds will be changing to easterly moderate at times. In Agaba, it will be dusty, with northerly moderate winds and sea calm.

Low/high temperature in deg.C.
Amman 23/40
Agaba 23/40
Deserts 14/34
Jordan Valley 18/28

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Agaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Agaba 15 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local selling rates in JLD

Belgian franc 67.80
Dutch guilder 122.50
Egyptian guinea 323.30
French franc 44.80
Iraqi dinar 361.6
Italian lire (for 100) 22.5
Japanese yen (for 100) 163.2
Kuwaiti dinar 128.2
Lebanese lira 64.1
Omani riyal 109.0
Qatar riyal 103.3
Saudi riyal 107.7
Swedish crown 46.8
Swiss franc 166.8
Syrian lira 52.2
UAE dirham 102.6
U.K. sterling pound 526.4
U.S. dollar 378
W. German mark 137.7

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 75111
Fire, fire, police 199
Blood bank 75121
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 2300-3
Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters 30141
Traffic police 56300-1
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water supply 7125-8
Queen Alia Int. Airport (06) 53333

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813413-32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amman 42381-4
Al-Khalil Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabal Amman Maternity 42362
Mahbas, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shmiesani 66417-4
Shmiesani Hospital 664131
University Hospital 415845
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667138
Al-Musharraf Hospital 66727-9
The Islamic, Abdali 665242
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164
Italian, Al-Yuhayreen 77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111
Army, Marka 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Han Haddadin 777751

MARKET PRICES

Up/down price in JLD per kg

Banana 280 / 240
Banana (Mukammal) 240 / 210
Beans 270 / 230
Broad Beans 300 / 270
Cabbage 170 / 180
Carrot 1800 / 1600
Cauliflower (white) 120 / 100
Chicken (small) 100 / 70
Chicken (large) 240 / 200
Cucumber (small) 360 / 320
Eggplant (large) 170 / 120
Eggplant (small) 170 / 120
Garlic 600 / 500
Grapefruit 170 / 140
Lemon 210 / 180
Mallow 320 / 280

'Obeidat urges Companies to use national shippers

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat has requested all government institutions and companies working in the country to give priority to using the Jordan National Shipping Lines Company (JNL) in shipping Jordan's exports and imports of goods.

This came in a communique sent by Mr. Obeidat to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism Tuesday with the aim of helping JNL to combat the competition from foreign companies working in the sea transport sector.

The communique said that JNL

faces stiff competition in the international market from foreign lines which have slashed their rates to get Jordan's trade.

The communique also pointed out that JNL is the first Jordanian company owning its own ships that has flown the Jordanian flag in international waters. The Jordanian government and public sector institutions own more than 75 per cent of the company's shares.

The JNL possesses a fleet of four modern commercial ships which work from the Red Sea port of Aqaba.



The forecourt of the old Royal Horse Racing Club which was sold three years ago (J.T. file photo)

Horse racing to restart at new premises after 3 year absence

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After an absence of three years, the Royal Horse Racing Club will be back in action this Friday, May 25. But if you are used to going to Marka to watch the horse and camel races there, do not do so this time, for the club has new premises.

The new premises are located in

Tunelb, 17 kilometres south here (see map), and replaces the previous location near the old airport, which was sold to a Jordanian businessman for JD 1 million.

The Royal Horse Racing Club is a private venture founded in 1957 by the late Sharif Nasser ibn Jamil (His Majesty King Hussein's uncle) and a former army commander-in-chief, Field Marshal Habes Al Majali, with the objective of improving horse breeding and to promote the sport of horse riding in Jordan.

Until 1981, a season did not go by without the club putting on races for the Jordanian public, the foreign community living here and visitors alike.

In 1981, after the sale of the club

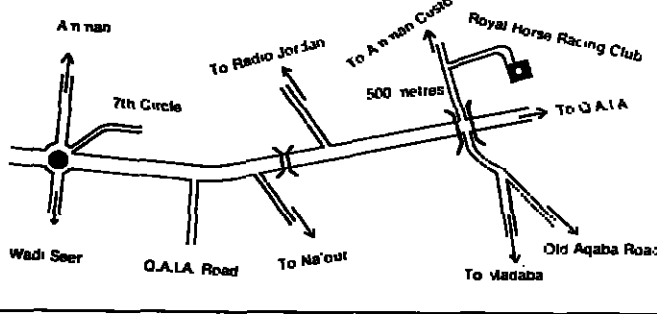
at Marka, the club's committee stopped all activities and went prospecting for a new location.

The opening of this year's racing season will feature five horse races and a camel-race.

The new club premises at Tunelb are being set-up on an area of 300 dunums of land which comprises an amphitheatre capable of seating 600 people; 200 stables; 20 large storage areas and a car park.

The club also plans to start a horse riding school in the very near future.

For its part, the Jordan Times will be publishing the programme of the Friday meetings every Thursday and the results Sundays to help its readers pick the future winners.



Regional housing meeting seeks unified regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of the Housing Corporation Shafiq Zawalidh Tuesday returned home from Baghdad where he took part in a seminar on the design and standard of housing projects, which was held in the Iraqi capital Sunday.

Speaking about the recommendations adopted at the conclusion of the seminar, Mr. Zawalidh said the participants have agreed to draw up unified regulations, rules and laws governing housing standards to facilitate the implementation of the regional housing plan.

The seminar also stressed the importance of developing housing designs and standards and called for attention to be paid to the social and psychological consequences of housing development.

The seminar also stressed the importance of the participation of the people in enriching the design of houses and making the better places in which to live.

Sculptures give U.S. taste of contemporary Arab art

AMMAN (J.T.) — As part of the activities of the Arab-American Cultural Association, which aims to introduce the American public to contemporary Arab culture, Jordanian sculptor Muna Al-Saudi Tuesday opened an exhibition at Gallery 1000 in Washington.

The exhibition, which includes 15 pieces of sculpture in addition to some drawings, will run until July 30, according to a report in Al-Rai daily Arabic newspaper.

The exhibition will also include a statue model of the statue erected by the Amman Municipality on the Sixth Circle.

Ms. Saudi uses stone from Italy and Jordan in her work.

Muna Saudi opened her last exhibition at the Alia Art Gallery in Amman in May 1983.

Labour minister says expatriates face redundancy

'Foreign workers have to make way for Jordanians'

By Ibrahim Noori
Reuter

AMMAN — Thousands of foreign workers here face losing their jobs to make way for Jordanians returning from recession-hit Arab oil states, Jordanian Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jaber has said.

"This year, we expect 10,000 of our workers in the Gulf to return, but 6,000 others are expected to go there for work," he told Reuters in a recent interview.

At the same time, Dr. Abdul Jaber said, three per cent of Jordan's estimated 500,000 workforce was expected to be jobless.

"We have definite plans to replace a large section of the 120,000 foreign workers in Jordan — 90,000 of them Egyptians — with Jordanians," he added.

The minister said not all the Jordanians coming home had lost their jobs, and most were returning voluntarily or on retirement after a long stay in the Gulf.

The Arab oil states, enriched by the oil price boom of the 1970s, imported thousands of foreigners to work in projects ranging from schools to refineries. But their labour markets shrunk as the oil market glut forced big cuts in development expenditures.

The impact on Jordan has been twofold, resulting in a drop in its remittances from its estimated 350,000 workers abroad, and in direct aid from the oil states, which had enabled Jordan in turn to import cheap labour, mainly from Egypt and Asia.

Dr. Abdul Jaber said he did not

expect any problem absorbing the returning workers — mostly in skilled or professional fields — into Jordan's labour market this year, but any acceleration of the trend could create difficulties.

But economists said the loss of their foreign exchange remittances, coming on top of the decline in aid flows, would have an impact on the local economy.

Remittances through banks reached JD 320 million in 1982 and totalled JD 268 million in the first nine months of last year.

But aid from the oil states fell from a peak of JD 395 million in

1981 to JD 163 million in the first three quarters of 1983. Jordan, which has no oil and few natural resources, spent 87 per cent of its export earnings in 1982 to import crude oil costing JD 230 million.

"Our labour in the Gulf is our basic asset, which has influenced development in Jordan positively and made the country creditworthy through foreign exchange support," Dr. Abdul Jaber said. "We shall try and develop this asset with our surplus of qualified and experienced manpower," he added.

He said the government was being helped in this by a recent United Arab Emirates government requirement that 30 per cent of workers in government departments should be Arab. Dr. Abdul Jaber added, saying "we shall need Egyptian labour, especially in the field of agriculture, for a long time."

Nordic Red Cross team's visit cements co-operation

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A delegation of four Nordic national Red Cross presidents left Amman Monday after a six-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Jordan National Red Crescent Societies (JNRCS).

Presidents of the Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish national Red Cross societies, were taken to tourist sites in Jordan in addition to JNRCS centres in the country.

In Agaba, the delegation visited the marine ambulance section of JNRCS, which was donated to Jordan by the Norwegian Red Cross.

According to Dr. Ahmad Abu Jura, President of Jordan National Red Cross societies (JNRCS), the delegation's visit marked a cornerstone in the relations between the JNRCS and the Nordic Red Cross societies. "This is the first ever visit to Jordan by these societies", Dr. Abu Jura said.

"In addition to their visit to tourist sites in Jordan, the delegation paid a visit to the Prince Abdullah Orphanage in Salt which is run by the JNRCS", he added.

"The delegation had an audience with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who briefed them on a number of things, on the new international humanitarian order", Dr. Abu Jura said.

"As you know, the existing

humanitarian laws which were approved by the international community have their weaknesses and loopholes, but Crown Prince Hassan's proposal for the new humanitarian order will definitely avoid these weaknesses, and is based on orienting the youth of the world to this new order," Dr. Abu Jura said.

"In our meeting we discussed several issues concerning past and future co-operation between the JNRCS and the national Red Cross societies," he added.

Agreement

"We reached an agreement to submit a call to all societies in the world to participate in the forthcoming September seven-day Red Cross Red Crescent peace conference which is due to be held in both Finland and Sweden."

Secondly, he said, we decided to have "continuous co-operation between the Nordic societies and JNRCS to promote and develop humanitarian activities in general, and to develop the laws and regulations that govern the societies in particular."

"The third part of the agreement," he continued, "was to exchange visits between JNRCS and Nordic Red Cross societies."

Dr. Abu Jura also said, that the JNRCS presented the delegation with the society's shield in appreciation of the Nordic societies' invaluable assistance extended to Jordan over the years.

New governors sworn in

AMMAN (Petra) — Two governors Tuesday took the oath of office before His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

The two newly appointed governors are Mr. Hashem Abu Abboud and Mr. Ahmad Al-Jura'an who have been appointed the gov-

ernors of Ma'an and Karak respectively.

Attending the oath-taking ceremony at the Royal Court were Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al-Jasen, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odah and Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar.

Round-the-world cyclist peddles into Jordan

By C.V. Mohan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One may wonder how it is possible to travel around the world with just \$200. But a 28-year-old Bangladeshi youth is doing just that having set off on a bicycle from Dhaka on Sept. 19, 1983 with \$200 in his hand to tour the globe in four years. Seven months of travelling has brought him to Jordan where he arrived last week.

Lean and tall, Hassan Ahmad Salim graduated from the University of Dhaka in commerce but having continued studies in a Masters degree he unfortunately was unable to appear for the examination.

He was a good football player and a cyclist during his school and college days. He took part in and won many championships at school, college and local levels.

What prompted Mr. Salim to tour around the world on a bicycle despite all the difficulties that he might confront?

"This is a give-and-take project. I would like the people around the world to know about the Bangladeshi heritage, culture and civilisation, while I, at the same time, learn about different kinds of people and their cultures from various countries. It is quite easy to educate people and get educated," a jubilant Mr. Salim told the Jordan Times.

Nasser, a close friend of Mr. Salim, toured one of the neighbouring countries on a bicycle at the beginning of 1983. Upon his return to Bangladesh, Nasser related his experience to Mr. Salim. Nasser's thrilling experience inspired Salim with enthusiasm and he decided that he should be the first Bangladeshi to travel around the world on a bicycle.

Mr. Salim practised for six months touring around his country prior to his world trip.

With the encouragements of friends, and sports and welfare organisations, Mr. Salim started his trip from Dhaka to Calcutta, India on an ordinary bicycle donated by the Bangladesh Steel Engineering Company in Dhaka, a local bicycle manufacturer.

Mr. Salim took 54 days to cover a distance of 4,000 kilometres in India to reach Pakistan. All of a sudden however a run of bad luck cast a shadow over Mr. Salim's ambition as his bicycle broke down in Lahore. But, the Pakistan Engineering Company (Peco) saved the day by presenting him with a new bicycle and he continued his journey to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"After completing at most all his stay in the emirates in Dubai the bicycle broke down again. 'I lost all my energy', Mr. Salim said. However this time Salim was more lucky to receive a sophisticated five-gear racing cycle from the UAE Cycling Federation. Many of Mr. Salim's compatriots, as well as Indian and Pakistani nationals working in Dubai plus local people also helped him financially."

"This generous attitude made me more energetic" to continue my tour of the other Gulf countries — Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq despite the burning heat and sand storms of the deserts, Mr. Salim said.

In the Iraqi city of Basra, the soldiers extended a warm welcome and presented many gifts to Mr. Salim. "The good nature and behaviour of the warring soldiers depict their human considerations and true love of sports", Mr. Salim said.

In Jordan, the H4 customs officials gave him a friendly reception

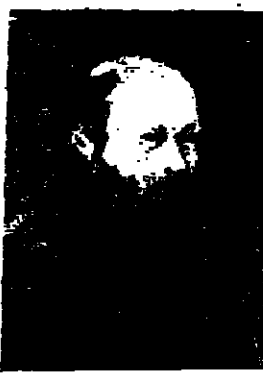


Hassan Ahmad Salim

and good advice. After completing the journey in Jordan, Mr. Salim plans to visit Syria and then move on to Europe. From Europe, Mr. Salim will then go on a round trip of African countries.

Then he is off to Mexico, having crossed the Atlantic Ocean by ship, and later on to survey the United States. He will then undertake another long journey through the Pacific Ocean to reach Australia from where he will go to Far Eastern countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Burma.

APPEAL
MAY



Paul Cézanne (1839-1906)



Victor Hugo (1802-1885)



Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)



Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)



Charles de Gaulle (1890-1980)

Great men come and go but great cheeses go on forever

Cheese is one of the oldest and best-loved foods in the world. Throughout the ages, it has graced the tables of great men and simple folk alike, its traditional recipes having been handed down from generation to generation. Many of the world's most famous cheeses come from France and they vary as much in size and shape as they do in flavour and type.

From the mighty Emmentaler, a hard cheese that can weigh over 200 lbs., down to the tiny Valencay, a soft cheese covered with wood ash, there

are nearly 400 kinds of cheese made from the milk of cows, goats or sheep. Many of them such as Camembert, Brie and Roquefort, are so magnificent that France's reputation could well stand on these examples alone. Every cheese has its own distinctive regional character and flavour, traditions and ingredients but the only way to understand the differences between French cheeses is to taste them. Eat French cheese every day and enjoy a great life!

You are invited to taste French Food at any of the following supermarkets:
AMMAN • APRIL 30 - MAY 4
Khalaf Stores • Al Boustani • Sweet • Al Waha • Picadilly • Luswi • Rainbow
• Wadwan
MAY 7 - MAY 11
Al Waha • Hico • Green Valley • Babel • Safeway • Jordan Supermarket
• MAY 15 - MAY 18
Hamdan Supermarket • Alta Supermarket • Irbid Supermarket
AQABA • MAY 22 - MAY 24
Al Kawthar • Hamdan Minisupermarket • Abdeen Food Stores.



Organized by Sopas
The French Food Council

Royal Falcons give show Friday to raise money for cerebral palsy treatment

Palsy centre helps affected children return to 'normal'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

ORIGIN OF WORDS

Every word was once a poem; each began as a picture.

ANTHOLOGY: bouquet of flowers

This attractive word has a poem hidden in it. As we know, it means a collection of choice extracts from the works of many authors, sometimes from the writings of one author. The editor who gets up an anthology is actually gathering a bouquet of literary flowers, for the Greek word *anthologia* means "flower gathering" and comes from *anthos*, "flower", and *lego*, "gather."

TOPIC: a commonplace

The Greek philosopher Aristotle, pupil of Plato and teacher of Alexander the Great gave us this word. Topic is from the Latin *topica*, "topics", which is taken from *ta topika*, the title of a work by Aristotle on rhetoric. *Ta topika* means, "things pertaining to the commonplace." *Topikos* is pertaining to a place; local. The English word *topical* is nearest in sense to the early meaning; for the topical songs are those that concern the commonplace events of the day and that contain local allusions.

DANGER: ruled by a master

A word that has strangely changed its meaning. *Danger* now means "to be exposed to harm or injury", but in the old days it meant to be in someone else's power. As a pensioner wrote in 1461 to his patron: "I must greatly yn your danger and dette for my pension." This subservience to others is explained by the history of the word. It traces back by many changes of spelling to the Latin *dominium*, "power," "lordship", which in turn derives from *dominus*, "master". In Early England any whim of his master put a serf in danger.

ALBUM: meant white

The word *album* that identifies the bound book in which you paste pictures in a Latin term that meant the tablet on which public notices were displayed in ancient Rome. It derived originally from *albus*, which meant both "white" and "blank", a page, that is, that hadn't been written on and so was unsullied. Just by the way, the autograph album was old stuff at the time of the dictionary-maker, Dr. Samuel Johnson.

— Ahmad Jaber

AMMAN — The pretty little girl in a wheelchair radiated innocence through her smile and looked normal every inch except that a close inspection would have revealed a haunted look in her clear blue eyes and despair in the restless movement of her hands.

"A typical case for us," commented the motherly-looking doctor, Samira Baban, head of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation Centre at the King Hussein Medical Centre. "I am only distressed that she has been brought to me a little too late," she added.

Dr. Baban asked 16-year-old Alia several questions and the drawing, unclear tone in which the girl answered indicated clearly there was something seriously wrong with her.

Alia, one of the dozens who are brought to the foundation's centre every week, is the seventh child of a peasant family in Madaba. Her mother explained that there is nothing wrong with the rest of her children. Alia was born after a very normal pregnancy, and the delivery was not at all difficult under the supervision of the village midwife, the mother went on.

It was about 15 days after the daughter's birth that the mother noticed that the baby was "floppy" and took her to a regular doctor who asserted that the "Cure" would be a "long process." Apparently, "the cure" never materialised and the parents never got around to having their daughter examined by a specialist. "I have to help her in everything," the mother said, "she needs help to walk, clean and change clothes, but she is able to eat and drink by herself."

"She understands things well," the mother added, "but cannot express herself clearly."

Dr. Baban examined Alia closely and asked her to stand up. The girl obliged but with difficulty and sought her mother's help. "Leave her alone," Dr. Baban told the mother, and slowly, after a laborious process, Alia was able to stand up supporting herself with firm hold on a nearby table.

A smile lit up the face of the doctor. She called a nurse and instructed that the girl be taken to the physiotherapist for further check-ups.

"I am sure I will be able to make her walk," the doctor said, "I am only angry that it took the parents so long to get her to a specialist."

"I am not so sure of the rest of her functions," she looked gloomily, "because she has been brought to me a little too late."

Alia was referred to the foundation by the King Hussein Cen-

tre for the Physically Handicapped, Dr. Baban explained, as soon as the girl was taken there by the parents. The foundation, the centre for the handicapped and all similar institutions in Jordan work in close co-ordination, she said.

"I would blame the ignorance of the parents," she said, "they should have consulted a specialist much, much earlier. This girl, who is slowly blossoming into the best years of her life, is the victim of ignorance."

"Not a disease"

Cerebral palsy is not a "disease" or "illness," Dr. Baban emphasised, but a "condition" resulting from damage to the brain. The damage could occur in several ways, she said. Incompatibility of parents' blood, twin or multiple pregnancies, malnutrition, difficult and prolonged childbirth, German measles and drugs are some of the major factors contributing to the lack of oxygen supply to the infant's brain which damages the cells.

Also, accidents involving the head or the throat of the child during the early stages of its life and delivery under the supervision of inexperienced midwives—"as are some of the cases I have observed"—could lead to cerebral palsy, Dr. Baban said.

Cerebral Palsy means a break in communications between the brain and the muscles, resulting in problems of mobility and co-ordination of body movements. In some cases it may also cause speech, hearing and vision impairments. It takes many forms depending on the area of the brain affected. "Some of the children whom we accuse of being lazy and careless could very well be those who are ever so slightly affected that their inability to concentrate is not noticed," Dr. Baban, who holds a masters degree in maternity and child health from a British university and who has been practising for over 30 years, said.

The specialist attributed the relatively high number of cerebral palsy cases in Jordan to the high birthrates, poor health conditions in the refugee camps and the preoccupations of the parents.

She suggests proper medical care for pregnant women in rural areas and refugee camps, training enough qualified midwives, opening maternity homes to cover the whole community and efforts to prevent accidents in the home and childhood diseases as possible ways of curbing the increasing number of cerebral palsy victims in the country.



Omar Odeh, a cerebral palsy victim, learns to walk with tender care at the Cerebral Palsy Foundation centre — King Hussein Medical Centre.

"Help Us to Help Them"

The Cerebral Palsy Foundation, established in 1977 with the motto of "Help Us to Help Them," runs two centres — one at the King Hussein Medical Centre and the other at Zarqa.

The foundation has helped over 1,250 cerebral palsy victims since 1977 and, according to Dr. Baban, early diagnosis and medical consultations are essential in reaching positive results. While nothing can be done to repair the damage caused to the brain, "we can help the victims to be more self-dependent and useful members of the community," she said.

The treatment at the centre focuses on physiotherapy, the doctor said. Medicines are given only to those children who have occasional attacks of fits or any other illness. "We train them to regain control over their body movements first, and once this has been achieved we begin occupational therapy such as teaching

them to write, to sew and use tools etc.," Dr. Baban said.

Those having speech, hearing or vision impairments are referred to the centre's experts in the respective fields. However, the earlier the diagnosis and the beginning of the treatment, the quicker the results, the doctor added.

At this point a middle-aged man with a slight limp walked into the clinic and Dr. Baban introduced him as Luthfallah Dweiri, secretary of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation. Mr. Dweiri, a father of 10, also has a cerebral palsied child who has been under the care of the foundation for four years.

"It was a perfectly normal delivery in a good hospital," Mr. Dweiri recalled, "but it was an infection — even now we don't know what it was — that caused my child to be a victim of cerebral palsy."

The child, along with most of the other children under the care of the foundation, is brought to the centre once a week by the foundation's bus.

The children are given specially equipped, educational toys to play with and each of them is kept under the close observation of the centre's expert staff.

Those who need physiotherapy are given the necessary exercises and the progress of each child is noted and varying methods of treatments are applied as each case warrants.

"We do not perform miracles," Dr. Baban cautioned, "sometimes it takes years before some kind of normality is restored to the child's body movements. It all depends how early the diagnosis is made and the treatment started."

"My appeal to the parents is simple: If you have the slightest doubt about the normality of the behaviour of your child, do not delay in contacting us."

Free services

"We do not distinguish between rich and poor children," adds Fakri Bilbeisi, president of the foundation. "Our services and treatment are free and if the parents feel like they can make voluntary contributions."

The foundation's running costs are met by contributions from "humanitarians and personal friends," Mr. Bilbeisi, regional manager of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, says. "I have to say that Jordanians are really generous, so much so that until now we have not faced a critical financial situation."

The awareness of cerebral palsy, "which could happen to any family, regardless of wealth or religion," has been increasing over the years in Jordan, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

"We are really proud that last year even the smallest students from primary schools joined their older friends from the universities to go on to the street to collect donations," he added, referring to Cerebral Palsy Day which was marked on the first Thursday of October 1983.

"Our future plans are focused on the establishment of a cerebral palsy assessment centre," which is badly needed in Jordan," Mr. Bilbeisi said. "We have already started a fund-raising campaign and it is our hope that we will be successful in obtaining the necessary funds."

He estimates that the land, building, equipment, staff and running costs for two to three years for the planned "assessment centre" will be close to JD 1 million. "Of course it is an ambitious project with the aim of serving more and more cerebral palsy victims in the country," he admits. "But, such a centre would help us go a

very long way ahead in assessing, pinpointing and treating more cases.

"We are confident of raising half of the estimated costs through donations and contributions," he added. "We may have to approach the government to give us a piece of land to build the centre and additional financial help."

Air show

As part of its fund-raising campaign for the proposed centre, the foundation has organised an "air show" to be held on Friday, May 25, to coincide with Jordan Independence Day. The highlight of the show will be an aerobatic display by the Jordanian Royal Falcons, the national aerobatic display team. It will be the first time that the Royal Falcons have performed a public show in Jordan, Mr. Bilbeisi pointed out, and that too for a charity cause.

The show is scheduled to be

held at Amman's old airport at Marka. Tickets are priced at JD 2 each and are being sold at most of the major supermarkets, five-star hotels and bookstalls.

A map showing the exact location of the show is being provided along with the tickets. The programme begins at 12 noon and will last for about six hours, of which slightly above two hours will be devoted to the Royal Falcons.

The event is scheduled to be opened by His Majesty King Hussein, and Mr. Bilbeisi said he would use the opportunity to present to the King some of the cerebral palsy victims treated by the foundation.

Asked to comment on his feeling upon seeing the positive results of the treatment offered by the foundation to a cerebral palsy victim, Mr. Bilbeisi was overcome with emotion. It took him a moment to steady his voice to say: "It is the greatest feeling on earth. No words can describe it."



Imad I. Najjar, 5½ years, cannot speak and suffers from poor control of his limbs, being here trained by specialist to maintain equilibrium at the centre

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Duarte seeks Congress approval of more aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Salvadorean President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte called on the United States Congress on Monday night to approve increased aid for his country and denounced efforts to link the assistance to progress on human rights.

After a meeting with President Ronald Reagan, Mr. Duarte said in a speech he was surprised by those members of Congress "who seek to impose degrading conditions on El Salvador at a time when we are succeeding in our struggle to defend and strengthen democracy."

Mr. Duarte's remarks were prepared for delivery to a joint meeting of the Foreign Policy Association and World Affairs Council.

In his prepared remarks, Mr. Duarte said he can understand the frustration of some lawmakers over the pace of progress in El Salvador. "So they seek to impose conditions on assistance," he said. "Can they be as frustrated as we are? I don't think so."

Mr. Duarte described the congressional proposals as well-intentioned but said that "to impose unilateral conditions on the people in the name of democracy is to take away part of the freedom for which they are fighting."

Earlier, after meeting with Mr. Reagan, Mr. Duarte said that his country's democratic development has given the Salvadorean people new hope for a better future and has weakened the appeal of the extreme right.

Mr. Duarte, visiting here 11 days before his inauguration, said he will make a determined effort

to unify the country by incorporating the extremes of both right and left into the democratic process.

Several hours after the Reagan-Duarte meeting, a 33-page joint communique was issued saying the leaders agreed that "military assistance and the existence of a strong well-equipped national armed force is essential to shield democratic development."

"All governments have the obligation to guarantee their peoples full political participation and must have the means to protect democratic institutions against those who would subvert them, be they Marxist guerrillas and their external allies or violent internal extremist groups," it said.

It said the two leaders agreed that "armed conflict in El Salvador must be resolved through national reconciliation based on full integration of all its people into the political processes of the country."

In addition, the statement said, Mr. Duarte reaffirmed their "staunch commitment to the promotion of human rights, which are central to the democratic process and our freedoms."

Mr. Duarte's visit co-incided with the release of a report by Amnesty International accusing El Salvador's government of ordering the executions of many of

the estimated 40,000 people murdered there since 1979 and interfering with investigations of the deaths.

The London-based human rights group said there had been "blatant failure" by Salvadorean authorities to investigate the killings, and it charged that the "authorities themselves lie behind the wholesale extra judicial executions."

Mr. Duarte said he is not responsible for any excesses that have occurred over the past two years because he has not served in the government during that period.

The State Department, responding to the Amnesty International report, said the charges are not new and do not take into account the recent progress the Salvadorean government has made against politically motivated violence.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Defence Department said Monday that about 1,000 U.S. army and air force troops will join about 1,800 Honduran and 1,300 Salvadorean soldiers this week to begin a month-long series of counter-insurgency exercises in Honduras, the Defence Department said Monday.

The field manoeuvres, scheduled to start Wednesday, first were announced March 23. The Pentagon statement Monday provided specific details.

The centre piece of the exercise will be a three-day combined airborne and helicopter assault exercise near Jamastran Air Field in south-central Honduras.



President Ronald Reagan meets in the Oval Office of the White House Monday with Salvadorean President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte who arrived for meetings with U.S. officials this week (AP wirephoto)

Curfew extended in Bombay as 125 die

BOMBAY (R) — Curfews were clamped on three more areas of Bombay Tuesday as the death toll in five days of Hindu-Muslim clashes in the tense Western Indian state of Maharashtra rose to 125.

Police said night curfews had been extended to a total of 11 suburbs in the city, capital of the state and commercial centre of the nation.

Security forces repeatedly fired on rival groups of Hindus and Muslims who fought pitched battles Monday night in narrow lanes in the city's sprawling tenement areas.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported that police opened fire Monday night to disperse crowds in the nearby district of Thane.

Thane is under night curfew, while a 24-hour curfew is in force in the nearby industrial town of Bhiwandi, scene of the worst disturbances.

Heavily-armed police and troops Tuesday patrolled Bombay after Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her son Rajiv toured the riot zone Monday.

Mrs. Gandhi Monday announced payments totalling one million rupees (\$100,000) to be distributed among relatives of people killed in the unrest. Each bereaved family in Thane and Bhiwandi will receive 2,000 rupees (\$200) from the National Relief Fund.

The Prime Minister met relatives of those killed in the fighting, visited hospitals crowded with more than 300 people injured in the attacks and met some of the 6,000 refugees forced to evacuate their burnt-out homes.

PTI quoted police as saying the total number of injured rose Tuesday to 600 and the number of arrests in Bombay to 1100.

Mrs. Gandhi appealed for calm and told a news conference after her visit that police strength in the affected areas was inadequate and would be re-inforced.

She promised firm action against those responsible for the disturbances but ruled out a ban on militant organisations.

The unrest started on Thursday between Muslims and members of a militant Hindu organisation called Shiv Sena. PTI described the unrest as the worst ever in the state.

Meanwhile in Amritsar suspected Sikh terrorists ambushed a highway bus in Punjab, lined its passengers alongside the road, and executed four people before fleeing, police said Tuesday. At least nine other people died in separate attacks, police confirmed.

Two civilians were injured Tuesday when terrorists threw a hand grenade on a paramilitary police truck in this Sikh holy city.

The bus attack took place late Monday night on a national highway between Voga and Ferozepur districts, police said.

Six armed terrorists stopped the bus, ordered the passengers to line up on the road, and opened fire, killing four people believed to be Hindu, police said.

A similar ambush took place last October in Punjab, prompting Mrs. Gandhi to impose emergency rule in that northern Indian state to curtail violence.

Monday's violence claimed 13 lives, including the bus passengers.

Terrorists gunned down a patrolling policeman in Jullundur district, then escaped with his revolver, police said.

In Bhatinda district, a local town official was assassinated by two terrorists, sparking arson and stone-throwing by angry residents. Police fired tear gas to disperse the mob.

Extremists shot dead the son of a head constable while he was watching television with his family in Ferozepur, police said.

In Gurdaspur district, the president of a local photographers' union was killed and more than 15 injured when a bomb exploded at a local club.

S. Africa may soon pullout of Angola

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — South African troops may withdraw from southern Angola within days, according to the white-ruled nation's foreign minister.

Foreign Minister R.F. Botha made the statement Monday night after a day of talks here with Angolan leaders on a plan to pull South African troops from the Angolan south and return control of the area to Angolan regulars.

Mr. Botha acknowledged there were obstacles yet remaining between the two sides, but said they "were not insurmountable."

Marxist-ruled Angola and South Africa struck a security agreement Feb. 16 after South African troops launched a six-week invasion of Angola Dec. 6.

South Africa said the thrust was aimed at Angolan-based guerrillas of the South-West Africa Peoples' Organisation (SWAPO). The South African-Angolan pact is intended to neutralise SWAPO in the bush region that has been its military base for 17 years.

SWAPO has been fighting South Africa's administration of South-West Africa, also called Namibia. Like most African nations, SWAPO demands South Africa grant Namibia its independence. The territory has been under South African control since World War I.

Angola has said it hopes the security pact will open the door for eventual self-rule for the estimated 1 million Namibians, most of whom are black.

The Feb. 16 agreement, which calls for the two sides to meet once a month to discuss progress, would permit the eventual withdrawal of South African troops from Angola once it is determined the area has been returned to Angolan government control.

A statement from the South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued at 11:30 p.m. (21:30 GMT) Monday said Foreign Minister Botha led the South African delegation, which included Defence Minister Magnus Malan and Mr. Willie Van Niekerk, South African Administrator General of Namibia.

British queen has eye soreness

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II is suffering from a slightly inflamed right eye, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said Monday night. He said it was not serious but declined to give further details. Earlier on Monday, the Queen, who is 58, spent two-and-a-half hours touring the annual Chelsea Flower Show in London and nothing appeared to be wrong with her eyes when she was pictured on television.

8 die in Turkish blizzard

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — Five women and three men froze to death in a high plateau near the southeastern city of Bitlis, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported Monday. Bitlis Prosecutor Mehmet Eslit was quoted by the agency as saying that a group of 14 villagers had left the township of Mutki two days ago to pick herbs on a high plain in the area. The group was caught in a blizzard Sunday as temperatures dropped to freezing point on the high range mountains in the Bitlis province, the prosecutor was quoted as saying.

American conquers Nepalese peak

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — An American climber and a Nepalese sherpa guide have conquered the 7,134 metre Mt. Gaur-Shanker, an official report from the base camp said Tuesday. American Wyman K. Gulbreth, 23, and Ang Kami, 26, reached the summit at 06:30 p.m. (12:50 GMT) on May 16 along the mountain's southwest face after an 11-hour climb from their assault camp, the report said. In about one hour's stay at the top, the two climbers took photographs and hoisted Nepal's flag. They reported that the weather was "good but somewhat windy" on the mountain. The two had spent the Monday night at their camp three at 6,341 metres, where they returned at 02:30 a.m. (20:50 GMT) after a six-hour climb down from the summit in the dark.

Indonesia bans Hare Krishna

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Attorney General Ismail Saleh has banned all literature and activities of the Hare Krishna sect in Indonesia, a spokesman for the attorney general's office said Tuesday. Those who possess such literature are ordered to submit it to security authorities, and security authorities are to seize any such literature and stop all activities related to the sect, the spokesman said. He said the literature had caused concern among followers of Hinduism and could disturb peace and security.

Soviet general dies at 62

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union's Armed Forces newspaper on Tuesday reported the death of Col. Gen. Semyon F. Romanov, saying the 62-year-old army officer "died suddenly in the line of duty." The cause of Gen. Romanov's death was not given in the obituary printed in Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star). Gen. Romanov served in the Soviet army for 44 years and represented the Chief of the Warsaw Pact Armed Forces at the time of his death, according to Red Star. He previously served as first deputy under the chief of staff of the Warsaw Pact nations armed forces and as chief of staff of anti-aircraft defence troops, Red Star said. Gen. Romanov was born May 7, 1922, in the village of Zhukovo in central Russia.

Britons continue climb on Cho Oyu

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A British team climbing the 8,210 metres Mount Cho Oyu has set up its fourth high-altitude camp at 7,500 metres, Nepal's Ministry of Tourism said Tuesday. The three-member team, led by Steven K. Berry, 33, of Clifton, Bristol, was continuing efforts to make a route to its camps site along the east ridge before making its attempt on the summit. An international woman's expedition led by America's Vera Komarkova, 42, conquered Cho Oyu on May 13 from the other side of the mountain, along the southwest face.

U.S. shows little concern over Soviet subs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet announcement that more Soviet nuclear missile-firing submarines will be patrolling off United States coastlines has been greeted with little concern by American officials who say the subs have been there for several months.

"There's essentially no change in the strategic situation," said a statement Monday issued at both the White House and the State Department.

The Soviets have added one sub to the two they normally have off the Pacific coast and another one to the three which patrol inter-

national waters off the U.S. Atlantic seaboard, Pentagon officials said.

The additional subs were first spotted in February and Gen. John W. Vessey Jr., chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said in a letter at that time: "it is not a cause for alarm."

The low-key reaction is because the missiles in the two extra subs were already presumably aimed at U.S. targets from their previous stations in the northern Pacific and northern Atlantic, said the Pentagon officials, speaking on condition they not be identified.

Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Ustinov said Sunday, through the Soviet News Agency TASS, that Moscow has increased the number of nuclear-armed submarines off U.S. shores. Declaring that U.S. missiles in West Europe can hit Soviet targets within 10 minutes of launch, Marshal Ustinov indicated that Soviet missiles can hit U.S. targets in the same time span.

The U.S. statement called the Ustinov statement "a familiar litany of Soviet assertions and threats."

Mr. Weinberger was alluding to the long standing deployment of Yankee-class missile-carrying submarines, each of which can fire up to 16 missiles with single nuclear warheads.

According to U.S. intelligence sources, the Soviets have long maintained about three Yankee-class subs some 1,600 kilometers off the U.S. east coast and usually two such subs off the West coast.

Their main targets are believed to be U.S. bomber bases, which Soviet strategists would hope to strike in a general surprise attack before U.S. B-52 bombers could get off the ground.

Gromyko rejects return to arms talks

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on Monday called the deployment of NATO missiles in Western Europe "a black page" in history and rejected the West German Foreign Minister's appeal for a return to the Geneva arms talks without preconditions.

In a speech at a luncheon for the visiting minister, Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Mr. Gromyko praised West Germany's "pivotal role" in the establishment of Detente in the 1970's. But he charged the United States reversed the trend with West Germany's help.

According to a TASS News Agency translation of his speech, Mr. Gromyko also said the Soviet Union places much of the blame for the failure of the Geneva talks on the West German government.

The Soviet Union walked out of the talks last November after West Germany, Britain and Italy began deploying the U.S. built nuclear rockets.

Mr. Gromyko said the deployment forced the Soviet Union to break off the negotiations, and added that West Germany "was one of those NATO countries which together with the United States paved the road to Europe for American missiles. Their deployment will go down as a black page in the annals of the 1980's."

West German sources said Mr. Genscher appealed to Mr. Gromyko for a return to Geneva without preconditions, but according to TASS, the Soviet leader ruled out returning to the talks unless NATO stops deploying missiles and removes rockets now in place.

Mr. Genscher has asked to meet with Communist Party General Secretary Konstantin Chernenko on Tuesday before returning home.

Elected Filipino opposition deputies may reject seats

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Opposition leader Salvador H. Laurel, who claims he was outspent 1,000-to-1 by President Ferdinand Marcos' ruling party, said Tuesday some opposition National Assembly winners may refuse their seats until vote fraud cases are settled.

Speaking at a news conference along with many complaining Marcos opponents, Mr. Laurel contended that if the election had been fair — the opposition would have won enough seats to control the assembly, impeach Marcos and install its own assembly speaker as successor.

It's hard to predict how many seats the opposition will get, Mr. Laurel said, "because they are still cheating," referring to the candidates of Mr. Marcos' New Society Movement.

The latest official results in the second week of vote tallying for the May 14 voting gave Mr. Marcos' party 86 seats and opponents, 50.

Unofficial returns showed opposition candidates leading for a majority of 47 undeclared seats, but an independent counting organisation closed its operations Tuesday and no breakdown was available.

One opposition leader, Zam-

boanga City Mayor Cesar Ciriaco, said he might refuse his assembly seat in protest, and Mr. Laurel said several other winning candidates may refuse to be seated in the assembly until election protests in 21 provinces are settled.

Mr. Laurel claimed Mr. Marcos spent the equivalent of \$320 million while opposition candidates spent only \$250,000 in winning an unexpectedly large minority of seats.

Mr. Laurel, president of the United Nationalist Democratic Organisation (UNIDO), whose candidates won most of the opposition seats, said his party would carry protests to the supreme court if they are thrown out by the Marcos-appointed commission on elections.

Mr. Laurel denied allegations by Mr. Marcos that he and other opposition leaders urged a crowd in Cebu city into a weekend clash with police that left one youth dead and 27 people injured.

Brig. Gen. Alfredo Olano said Tuesday all 34 people arrested after the melee at the provincial capital were released Monday, but would face charges such as vandalism and assault.

Police acknowledged they fired into the crowd, which was attacking the building where election returns were being counted.

Peron assures Alfonsin of her party's support

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — President Raul Alfonsin met Monday with former President Isabel Peron and received assurance that he can count on her opposition party's support "for whatever you do, so long as it is in the country's general interest," a government source said.

Mrs. Peron, who returned to Argentina on Sunday from self-exile in Madrid, led a group of 35 officials of the populist, labour-based party in a 30-minute meeting with Mr. Alfonsin, whose centre-left radical civic union defeat Peronists their first election defeat last October.

The smiling, 53-year-old Mrs. Peron said only that "I leave content," as she departed Mr. Alfonsin's office in Government House in downtown Buenos Aires Monday night.

A government official, who asked that he not be identified, told reporters later that Mrs. Peron told Mr. Alfonsin that "you're in charge and in whatever you do, so long as it is in the country's general interest, you will have the support of the Justicialist (Peronist) Party."

Mrs. Peron urged Mr. Alfonsin to "support the (country's) institutions and the family," in his efforts to resolve the Argentina's worst socio-economic crisis in the last 50 years, the official said.

The widow and successor of three-time president Juan Peron, who founded the Peronist Party in 1946, was driven in a limousine from her downtown luxury hotel to Mr. Alfonsin's office in nearby government house.

An estimated 1,000 persons cheered, waved signs of welcome and sang the Peronist Party march as Mrs. Peron, dressed in a stylish, full-length beige coat, and other delegates arrived for the talks, first in a series planned by Mr. Alfonsin with the nation's leading political parties.

Mr. Alfonsin, whose Dec. 10 inauguration ended more than seven years of military rule in Argentina, personally invited Mrs. Peron, who was toppled by a

5 world leaders unite on plan to end arms race

NEW YORK (RP) — Five national leaders who claim independence from both Washington and Moscow were scheduled on Tuesday to jointly announce a plan to bring an "across-the-board halt to the nuclear arms race."

In an unusual international endeavour, the five leaders scheduled simultaneous announcements in their capitals to launch a campaign to persuade the Soviet Union, United States and smaller nations with nuclear arms to halt "the rush towards global suicide," according to a statement issued in New York.

The leaders are Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico, Prime Minister Olof Palme of Sweden, Premier Andreas Papandreu of Greece and President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

All five have previously gone on record as urging the big powers to move away from confrontation.

The "four continent initiative" was disclosed in a statement by the U.S.-based Parliamentarians for World Order, which describes itself as an international network of politicians working for disarmament and development.

"The time has come when the rest of mankind is no longer content to wait on the sidelines while

relations between the nuclear powers worsen and the threat of war increases," the statement said.

"This is an unprecedented diplomatic initiative," Nicholas Dunlop, secretary-general of the organisation, told the Associated Press. He said this was the first group of leaders "that really has the ability to play an effective third-party role in negotiations to end the arms race."

Mr. Dunlop said the initiative was prepared in "tight secrecy" over the past year.

An advance text of a joint statement by the five leaders said: "We come from different parts of the globe, with differences in religion, culture and political systems. But we are united in the conviction that we must not be another war... the people we represent are no less threatened by nuclear war than the citizens of the nuclear weapons states."

Mr. Dunlop said the campaign would begin with high-level consultations aimed at a complete cessation of nuclear arms production and deployment, followed by a reduction.

There were no immediate plans for the five leaders to jointly visit Moscow or Washington, he said.

Argentine as a potential force for unification of the party, Argentina's largest political movement.

She spent most of Sunday and Monday meeting with leaders of various Peronist factions at her hotel, one of the city's most luxurious.

Announcement of the list of party officials who will accompany her in talks with Mr. Alfonsin indicated that she had succeeded, at least temporarily, in easing tensions between two important party groups.

The Peronist delegation will include officials said, members of the so-called "Unity Commission," formed by right-wing Peronists fiercely loyal to the ex-president, as well as members of the rival National Peronist Council.

Excluded from the list were officials of the Peronist General Confederation of Labour, at loggerheads with Mr. Alfonsin over his administration's efforts to "democratise" the unions through government supervised elections.

COLUMN

British queen has eye soreness

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II is suffering from a slightly inflamed right eye, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said Monday night. He said it was not serious but declined to give further details. Earlier on Monday, the Queen, who is 58, spent two-and-a-half hours touring the annual Chelsea Flower Show in London and nothing appeared to be wrong with her eyes when she was pictured on television.

8 die in Turkish blizzard

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — Five women and three men froze to death in a high plateau near the southeastern city of Bitlis, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency reported Monday. Bitlis Prosecutor Mehmet Eslit was quoted by the agency as saying that a group of 14 villagers had left the township of Mutki two days ago to pick herbs on a high plain in the area. The group was caught in a blizzard Sunday as temperatures dropped to freezing point on the high range mountains in the Bitlis province, the prosecutor was quoted as saying.

American conquers Nepalese peak

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — An American climber and a Nepalese sherpa guide have conquered the 7,134 metre Mt. Gaur-Shanker, an official report from the base camp said Tuesday. American Wyman K. Gulbreth, 23, and Ang Kami, 26, reached the summit at 06:30 p.m. (12:50 GMT) on May 16 along the mountain's southwest face after an 11-hour climb from their assault camp, the report said. In about one hour's stay at the top, the two climbers took photographs and hoisted Nepal's flag. They reported that the weather was "good but somewhat windy" on the mountain. The two had spent the Monday night at their camp three at 6,341 metres, where they returned at 02:30 a.m. (20:50 GMT) after a six-hour climb down from the summit in the dark.

Indonesia bans Hare Krishna

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Attorney General Ismail Saleh has banned all literature and activities of the Hare Krishna sect in Indonesia, a spokesman for the attorney general's office said Tuesday. Those who possess such literature are ordered to submit it to security authorities, and security authorities are to seize any such literature and stop all activities related to the sect, the spokesman said. He said the literature had caused concern among followers of Hinduism and could disturb peace and security.

Soviet general dies at 62

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union's Armed Forces newspaper on Tuesday reported the death of Col. Gen. Semyon F. Romanov, saying the 62-year-old army officer "died suddenly in the line of duty." The cause of Gen. Romanov's death was not given in the obituary printed in Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star). Gen. Romanov served in the Soviet army for 44 years and represented the Chief of the Warsaw Pact Armed Forces at the time of his death, according to Red Star. He previously served as first deputy under the chief of staff of the Warsaw Pact nations armed forces and as chief of staff of anti-aircraft defence troops, Red Star said. Gen. Romanov was born May 7, 1922, in the village of Zhukovo in central Russia.

Britons continue climb on Cho Oyu

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A British team climbing the 8,210 metres Mount Cho Oyu has set up its fourth high-altitude camp at 7,500 metres, Nepal's Ministry of Tourism said Tuesday. The three-member team, led by Steven K. Berry, 33, of Clifton, Bristol, was continuing efforts to make a route to its camps site along the east ridge before making its attempt on the summit. An international woman's expedition led by America's Vera Komarkova, 42, conquered Cho Oyu on May 13 from the other side of the mountain, along the southwest face.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦KQ10 ♦82 ♦K95 ♦AJ432

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

A. — Only a wealthy man can afford to bid two clubs on such a poor suit — that is begging for a penalty double that could prove expensive. After a large loss, it is surprising how many apologies start off with: "But partner, I had 13 points in high cards!" Pass — you can back in later if the auction develops favorably.

Q.2 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♣KQ8 ♦AKQJ83 ♦AQ104

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 2 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A. — A small slam is certain, and a grand slam depends only on whether partner holds the ace of hearts. Blackwood won't help — if partner shows one ace, you won't know which major-suit ace he holds. Jump to four spades. That is an "out-of-the-blue" cue-bid, agreeing clubs and showing first-round control of spades. If partner has the ace of hearts, he will cue-bid it in response. If he bids anything else, content yourself with six clubs.

Q.3 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K7 ♣J1064 ♦Q9832 ♦65

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

A. — Normally, it is our practice to respond with a four-card major at the one-level, if possible. This hand, however, is the exception. If partner has four hearts and a minimum opening bid, he might have opened one heart. With a good hand and four hearts, he can introduce the suit. Therefore, we prefer the raise to two diamonds over a response of

one heart, to show our strong support for partner's suit.

Q.4 — East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦9 ♣J7632 ♦Q10952 ♦A2

The bidding has proceeded: West North East South 1 ♦ 1 ♦ Pass ?

What do you bid now?
A. — Where have all the spades gone? If you fail to take strong preemptive action now, you will simply allow West an easy opportunity to introduce the suit at a safe level. Therefore, we suggest a jump to four diamonds. In fact, we don't mind a whit if you chose a full-blooded leap to five diamonds.

Q.5 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦